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Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2014

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The present note was prepared pursuant to paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 65/270, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), to expedite the implementation of that resolution, including through the expected provision of support to the Joint Inspection Unit by the secretariats of the participating organizations in the preparation of its reports, notes and confidential letters, and through the consideration of and action on the recommendations of the Unit in the light of pertinent resolutions of the Assembly, and to report to the Assembly on an annual basis on the results achieved.

2. In accordance with the statute of the Unit, the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB and through the secretariat of CEB, provides substantive support to the Unit. This occurs primarily through the preparation of responses to Unit reports of system-wide concern. In accordance with the Unit's mandate, the secretariat of CEB circulates to United Nations system organizations that participate in the Unit all reports that concern more than one organization and compiles the comments received. For each such report, the secretariat requests organizations to comment on the final version of the report, including the methodology used by the Unit in its preparation and the content and value of the recommendations made therein. The comments are collated and issued as United Nations documents under cover of a note by the Secretary-General. They reflect the overall consensus of the United Nations system, although each organization may choose to address the specific recommendations within the framework of its governing body. During the process, and as a matter of normal practice, the secretariat requests organizations to respond within the deadline provided in order to produce the comments of the Secretary-General and those of CEB members within the mandated time frame.

3. In addition to circulating and commenting on Unit reports of system-wide concern, the CEB secretariat continues to work closely with the Unit on the preparation of its annual programme of work. It provides substantive input

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regarding specific proposals and facilitates the process, as requested by the secretariat of the Unit.

4. The CEB secretariat continues to maintain a constant dialogue with the Unit to ensure a smooth report preparation process and to identify methods for enhancing the value of the Unit's reports. In 2014, it undertook consultations with the Unit on several subjects where mutual exchange of information and experience was deemed useful by either entity. For example, comments and suggestions by the Unit were sought and subsequently integrated into a proposal for a reference risk management, oversight and accountability model developed by the Finance and Budget Network of the High-level Committee on Management, which was subsequently adopted by the High-level Committee and endorsed by CEB. During the preparatory analysis leading to the drafting of the Unit's report on the second phase of a system-wide review of results-based management, the Unit and the CEB secretariat held an in-depth exchange of views, after which the latter shared all the documentation, training material and tools produced by the results-based management community of practice of the High-level Committee, including the outcome of a results-based management workshop held in May 2007. A similar exchange of views and information was conducted in the preparation of a report on a review of safety and security in the United Nations system. Lastly, in 2014, the secretariat participated in the biennial workshop of agency focal points and presented the process used for preparing system-wide comments. The workshop, convened by the Unit, offers a unique opportunity to examine ways to enhance the reporting and follow-up processes.

5. As regards organizations' consideration of and action on the recommendations of the Unit in the light of pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly, chapter I.E of the report of the Unit for 2014 (A/69/34) contains detailed information about the action taken by organizations of CEB in follow-up to recommendations of the Unit. Furthermore, as noted by the Unit in its report, CEB and the Unit continue to work towards resolving the issue of recommendations addressed to CEB.

6. The Secretary-General remains committed to maintaining a close working relationship with the Unit and encourages all organizations to respond in a timely manner and in a spirit of cooperation to its requests.